

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 496

By Black

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the entire citizenry of Gallatin upon being named the *News Examiner's* 2007 Citizens of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, for their noble response to the April 7, 2006 killer tornado that ripped through the heart of their community, the citizens of Gallatin were recently named the *News Examiner's* 2007 Citizens of the Year; and

WHEREAS, the tribute is similar to a memorial for unknown soldiers, because the vast majority of the heroes who deserve to be honored and celebrated largely chose to be anonymous; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens of the Year are those who stopped everything to comfort neighbors and strangers alike, who spent countless hours engaged in hard, thankless work, and who helped the storm-struck gather scattered goods, chunks of buildings, and downed trees and limbs; they are those public spirited citizens of the highest order who simply stopped to hold and hug a fellow human being whose lifetime of work was erased in seconds, who made food and coffee, and who gave freely of their prayers; and

WHEREAS, the staff at the *News Examiner* has heard story after story of acts of courage and generosity during this time of crisis, including police officers, firefighters, and paramedics who performed with speed, skill, and sensitivity; restaurants and churches that opened their doors and fed volunteers and needy alike; people who gave supplies, furniture, and appliances to victims; and folks who simply went up to someone in need and asked how they could help; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gallatin epitomize the spirit, commitment, and generosity that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Gallatin are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State" and they should be specially recognized as exemplary residents of the "Volunteer City"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby salute the entire Gallatin citizenry upon being named the *News Examiner's* 2007 Citizens of the Year, commend them for their dedication to the state of Tennessee and to each other, especially in the aftermath of the April 7, 2006 tornado, and extend to them our best wishes for every future happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.